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SUBJECT: An Arab approach to Moscow REPORT NO: RPA-328  
for ASD

DATE OF INFORMATION:

PLACE ACQUIRED: Jerusalem DATE ACQUIRED: 20 April 1948

ESTABLISHED: B-3 DATE OF REPORT: 22 April 1948

SOURCE:

1. As reported in RPA-260, the A.L.H.L. with the tacit approval of a member of the A.H.E. some time ago made an approach to Soviet diplomatic representatives in Beirut with the object of obtaining aid in the struggle against the Jews. When the Russian reply, which appears to have been unsatisfactory, was conveyed to the MFTL, he apparently decided to pursue the matter more vigorously in a different way. He appears to have exerted great pressure in Arab League circles to secure authorization for Arab diplomats in Moscow to broach there the question of Russian aid. Reportedly in order to placate an otherwise disgruntled MFTL, instructions were accordingly given to the Lebanese Minister in Moscow, Fakh-al-Din HALLIL (?) to make representations to the Kremlin. (See sec 156). Indeed Arab leaders are said to have speculated about the possibility of concluding a broader agreement with Moscow covering problems in various parts of the Middle East, in the event that the Russians showed any signs of supplying help for Palestine. But sources stress that it is reliably reported that the Arab approach did not greatly impress Moscow, which appears to have received it coldly. Nevertheless, according to sources, Arab leaders plan to make further attempts to secure Russian aid.

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